

of life. I've always believed that and I've spoken very often on this floor because my convictions have been expressed previously. I oppose any effort to change the words so as to make the act of abortion less undesirable. As far as I am concerned, it is an undesirable act. It ought to be viewed that way. It ought to be discouraged, and it ought not to be condoned. I have spoken on this floor many times also about the need to take care of the children once they are born. From time to time, I have criticized some of my colleagues and other persons who are in strong support of the child, but they sometimes lose sight of that child's rights and its right to a decent life once it is born. That is another issue, not to be debated here today. If the child does not have a chance to live, then it will never have any other opportunity, and so for that reason, Senator Nelson, I respectfully disagree with your amendment, and I would hope it would not secure the necessary votes for passage.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Next speaker is Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I have been listening with some interest here today and, of course, concern about some of the things we are talking about. I think you all know exactly where I stand on this issue, and I have difficulty when we try to mask issues or hide them or make them seem something that they are not. This particular amendment of Senator Nelson's is one that makes it seem something that it is not. We are talking about live babies, live fetuses, live embryos, live whatever you want, but it is live. If you were to take a child at birth and decide to go back through the stages of pregnancy in reverse order, I'm trying to decide where you'd come up with the fact that that is not a live, living being, and we all know that life begins at conception. There isn't any question about that. I know that. I know that from my studies in embryology and then through veterinary medicine, there is no question about the fact that life begins at conception. Now you can mask that and say this is not a baby in there. You can call it a fetus, if that makes you more happy, but it doesn't change the fact. The fact is that that's a living viable human being in there, and we are talking about removing that viable human being, destroying its life. There is no two ways about that. If we can stop that destruction, I think we have every moral obligation to do that. We can stand here and talk about religious reasoning. We can talk about the logic, and then turn